

10/616,218

Amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 16-23 as follows:

Fig. 2A is a schematic illustration of head 32 of IM nail 30, and Fig. 2B is a cross-sectional illustration of head 32 through the line A—A 2B-2B of Fig. 2A, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Head 32 defines at least one hole 36, typically two holes, as shown in the figures. Holes 36 are typically oriented in an angled direction toward a femoral head 23 (Fig. 1) relative to a longitudinal axis of IM nail 30.

Amend the paragraph at page 22, line ²³16 to page 23

line 19 as follows:

Figs. 4A and 4B are cross-sectional illustrations of one of holes 36 of head 32 through the line B—B 4A-4A of Fig. 2A, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. An inner grooved surface 70 of hole 36 is shaped to define a notch 72, which tab 52 engages when sleeve 50 is inserted into hole 36 and properly aligned, thereby locking sleeve 50 to hole 36. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 4A, the radius R_1 of grooved inner surface 70 adjacent to notch 72 is less than the maximum radius R_2 of inner surface 70 in a region further away from notch 72. To insert sleeve 50 into hole 36 and engage locking mechanism 51, the surgeon typically first rotationally orients the sleeve so that tab 52 is aligned with a region of hole 36 having maximum radius R_2 , for example at the upper portion of hole 36. The surgeon then inserts the sleeve in the hole until tab 52 of sleeve 50 meets the upper portion of hole 36, which blocks further insertion of the sleeve. The surgeon then rotates the sleeve so that tab 52 approaches notch 72. As tab 52 approaches notch 72, tab 52 (and tongue 54) is